

From: John Crompton
To: aaron@gadberry.com
Date: 8/18/2009 6:41:03 PM
Subject: Re: Talking point last night

Mr Gadberry,

I was paraphrasing the mandate that directs the council's actions which is given in the city charter: "To advance the interest, welfare, health, morals, comfort, safety, and convenience of the City and its inhabitants". You will find similar wording in the city charter of all Texas Home Rule cities.

Best wishes
John Crompton

>>> Aaron Gadberry <aaron@gadberry.com> 08/18/09 12:59 PM >>>
Councilman Crompton,

After the hearing on Red Light Cameras last night you said something that disturbed me a bit. I do not have the exact wording of your speech, however I can summarize it in the sentence "It is my job to keep the residents of College Station safe."

You can not keep the residents of College Station safe. It is not possible. Safety is not actually your job, nor the job of the City Council, the Governor or President. It is not the job of Congress, either State or Federal. The oaths that public officials are required to take, including your own, make it very clear that their highest calling is to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. This does not say preserve, protect and defend the citizenry. Defending the Constitution is an achievable goal. Defending freedom against those that would take it away is possible, at least at a local level. Our founders did not come to America to be safe. They did not fight a revolutionary war to be safe. They did them to be free. Free from the Stamp Act, from Writs of Assistance. Free from ridiculous taxation. Free from tyranny imposing religion.

The oath is not outdated. It is far, far, more important to the future of our community to preserve freedom than to prevent 8 of the 2,600 accidents every year. It is impossible to keep all of us safe, but it is not impossible to keep all of us free.

Sent with all due respect, hopes and prayers,

Aaron Gadberry

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of _____, of the City of College Station, State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the constitution and laws of the United States and of this state and the charter and ordinances

of this City; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly or indirectly paid, offered, or promised to pay, contributed or promised to contribute any money or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment as a reward for the giving or withholding a vote at the election at which I was elected, or if the office is one of appointment, to secure my appointment. So help me God."